market area and the amount of this investment made in infrastructural area;

(c) the amount of Foreign Direct Investment made through share market during this period; and

(d) the amount of Foreign Direct Investment expected to be made in 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) A total number of 4244 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals involving FDI of Rs. 78153.78 crore have been approved in all sectors during the period from 1.1.99 to 31.5.2001, which include consumer and infrastructure sectors. Investment through the share market mainly pertains to portfolio investment and not FDI.

(d) FDI inflows during 1999 and 2000 were Rs. 16,867.79 crore and Rs. 19,341.74 crore respectively. During the first 5 months of 2001, inflows to the tune of Rs. 6,747.94 crore have been received. On the basis of trend analysis, it is expected that inflows during 2001 will be higher than that received in the year 2000.

Telecom services in Tripura

98 . SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a time-bound Action Plan to improve and strengthen telecom services in Tripura;

(b) whether internet services have been extended to all the Districts and the Sub-Divisional Headquarters of Tripura, if not, by when this work is likely to be completed; and

(c) by when, the Cellular Mobile Phone Service and paging service is likely to be extended to Agartala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Internet Services have been extended to all the District Headquarters and Sub-Divisional Headquarters of Tripura.

(c) Extension of Cellular Mobile Phone Service and Paging

service is not permitted for the present in Agartala in view of the special circumstances prevailing there.

Erosion in the worth of VSNL

982. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of news items captioned "VSNL's worth down by Rs. 20,000 crore" on 17th June, 2001 and "Government ignored official suggestions" on 18th June, 2001 published in the Times of India;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Governments decisions to end monopoly of VSNL much before 2004 as established by Government in the WTO telecom negotiations and reiterated during GDR issue has led to huge erosion of the VSNL's worth; and

(c) whether any enquiry was made about the allegation of insider trading to benefit the potential buyers of VSNL's shares to the detriment of the national economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The share price in the market is determined by various market forces and market sentiments. Further, according to available information, it appears that there was a sharp decline in the share value of almost all Indian Technology Companies during March to May 2000 as reflected in Bombay Stock Exchange Information Technology Index. The fall in share price of VSNL during this period was comparable to the general trend of the Indian Capital Market in Technology Sector.

(c) No, Sir.